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NOV 29 1995

HOWARD HANSON

MARIN COUNTY CLERK

by J. Steele, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MARINECEIVED

NOV 2 9 1995

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATINOAL

Plaintiff.

VS.

GERALD ARMSTRONG

Defendant

Case No. 157 680

HUB LAW OFFICES

ARMSTRONG'S
REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE IN SUPPORT
OF REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION

Date: December1 1995

Time: 9:00 A.M. Dept: One (1)

Pursuant to Evidence Code sections 452 and 453, defendant Gerald Armstrong requests that the Court take judicial notice of the following documents:

- A: Declaration of Kenneth Long in Support of Plaintiff's Reply In Support of Motion for Summary Adjudication of the Fourth, Sixth, and Eleventh Causes of Action of Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint.
 - B. Memorandum Opinion filed November 28, 1995 in *Religious Technology Center v. Lerma, The Washington Post, et al.* United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Case No. 95-1107-A.
 - C. Plaintiff Church of Scientology International's Notice of Motion and Motion to Strike Defendant Gerald Armstrong's Amended Answer filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California, Case No. 95-10911 aj.

DATED: November 29, 1995

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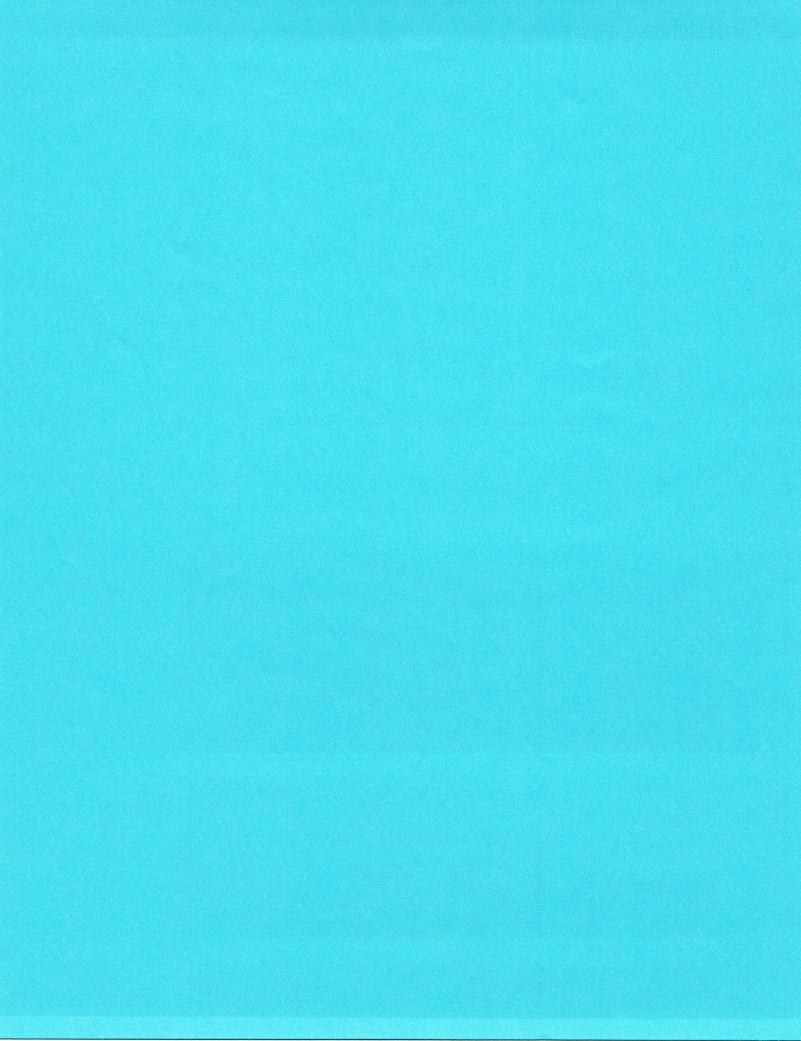
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By:



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11	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
12	CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL		
13			
14	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
15	FOR THE COUNT	TY OF MARIN	
16	CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY) CASE NO. 157 680	
17	INTERNATIONAL, a California not-for-profit religious corporation,)	
18		(CONSOLIDATED)	
19	751 1100	DECLARATION OF KENNETH D.	
20	Plaintiff,) LONG IN SUPPORT OF) PLAINTIFF'S REPLY IN SUPPORT) OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY	
21	vs.	ADJUDICATION OF THE	
22) FOURTH, SIXTH AND ELEVENTH) CAUSES OF ACTION OF	
23		PLAINTIFF'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT	
24	GERALD ARMSTRONG; DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,) DATE: January 27, 1995	
25		TIME: 9:00 a.m. DEPT: 1	
26	Defendants.) TRIAL DATE: May 18, 1995	
		,	
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I, KENNETH D. LONG, hereby state:

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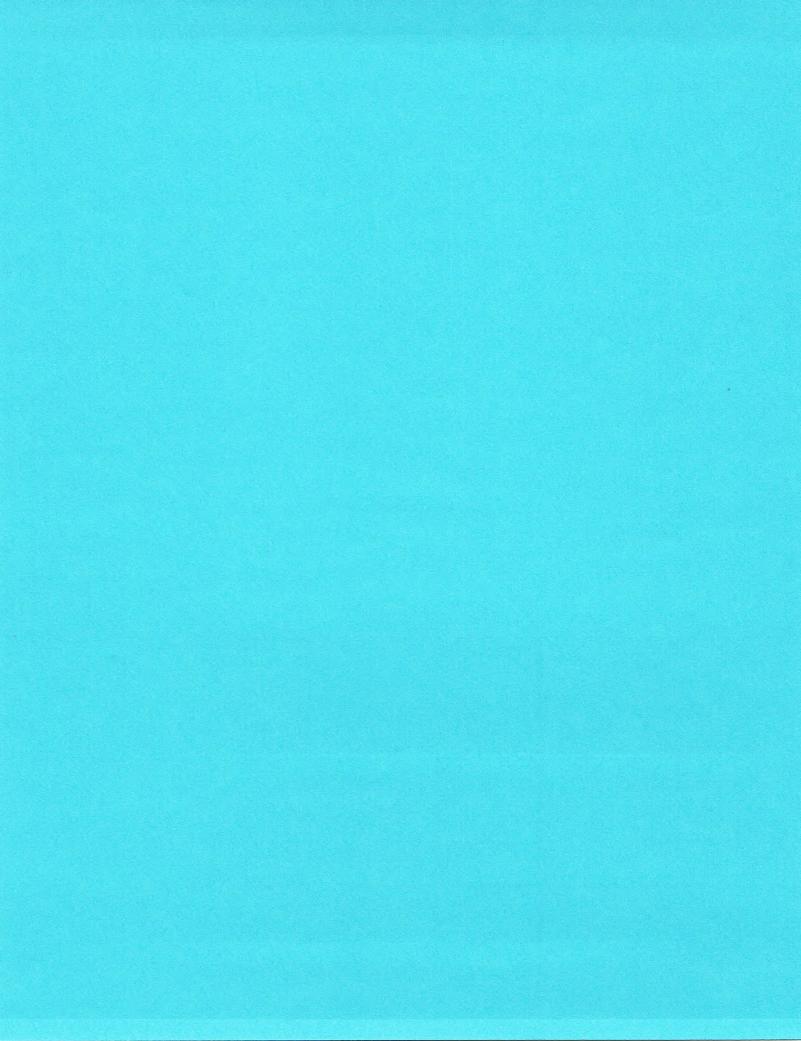
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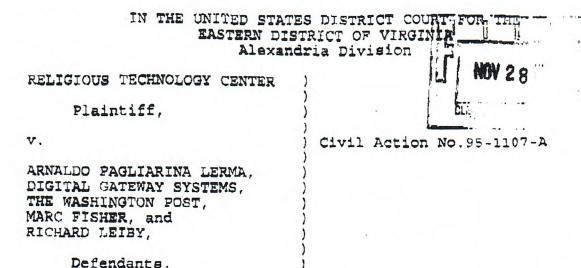
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- I am a staff member in the Legal Bureau of the Church of Scientology International, 3 in which I perform the functions of a paralegal. From 1980 through June, 1992, I was a staff member of the Church of Scientology of California and worked as a paralegal in the Legal 5 Bureau of that Church.
 - Since August 1982, I have worked in a paralegal capacity on legal matters relating to 2. Gerald Armstrong. Through the course of this work, I have studied the documents pertaining to legal matters involving Gerald Armstrong, have assisted counsel in the taking of depositions of Gerald Armstrong, and have worked on cases and trials either directly involving Gerald Armstrong or in which Armstrong testified. I am familiar with the proceedings in the case of Church of Scientology vs. Gerald Armstrong, L.A.S.C. Case No. C420153. I am also familiar with the press and media attention which Armstrong obtained prior to the settlement. Further, I am familiar with the releases signed by Vicki and Richard Aznaran. It is based on the above knowledge and experience that I make this declaration and if called upon to do so, I could and would competently testify thereto.
 - At the time that the Aznarans signed release agreements, they were employees of a 3. Church-related entity, and had decided to leave that employment. They had not publicly attacked any Church of Scientology, had not testified on behalf of any anti-Church litigant, and were not themselves anti-Church litigants at the time that they signed the releases.
 - At the time the Church settled with Armstrong, Armstrong was both an anti-Church litigant and a professional witness against the Church in other litigation. He was also a paralegal who worked extensively on anti-Church cases, and a self-designated public relations man who gave interviews to many reporters for sensationalist journals.
- 5. Prior to December 1986, Armstrong had testified in 15 cases, including his own, for 25 a total of 28 trial days, attacking the Church of Scientology and related entities and individuals.
- Prior to December, 1986, Armstrong had been deposed for 19 days, and had executed 6. 28 declarations in 15 cases, attacking the Church of Scientology and related entities and 28 individuals.





MEMORANDUM OPINION

Before the Court is the Motion for Summary Judgment filed by defendants, The Washington Post, and two of its reporters, Marc Fisher and Richard Leiby (hereinafter referred to collectively as "The Post"). A court may grant summary judgment "only when there is no genuine issue of material fact and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Miller v. Leithers, 913 F.2d 1085, 87 (4th Cir. 1990) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c)). In ruling on such motions, the court must construs the facts and all inferences drawn from those facts in favor of the non-moving party. Charbonnages de France v. Smith, 597 F.2d 406, 414 (4th Cir. 1979). Having performed this analysis, the Court finds that summary judgment should be entered in favor of the defendants.

1. UNDISPUTED FACTS

The essential facts are not in dispute. In 1991, the Church of Scientology sued Steven Fishman, a disgruntled former member of the Church of Scientology, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Church of

Scientology Int'l v. Fishman, No. CV 91-6425. On April 14, 1993, Fishman filed in the open court file what has come to be known as the Fishman affidavit, to which were attached 69 pages of what the Religious Technology Center ("RTC") describes as various Advanced Technology works, specifically levels OT-I through OT-VII documents. Plaintiff claims that these documents are protected from both unauthorized use and unauthorized disclosure under the copyright laws of the United States and under trade secret laws, respectively.

In California, the RTC moved to seal the Fishman affidavit, arguing that the attached AT documents were trade secrets. That motion was denied and the Ninth Circuit upheld the district court's decision not to seal the file. Church of Scientology Int'l y. Fishman, 35 F.3d 570 (9th Cir. 1994). The case was remanded for further proceedings and the district court again declined to seal the file, which remained unsealed until August 15, 1995.

Defendant Arnaldo Lerma, another former Scientologist, obtained a copy of the Fishman affidavit and the attached AT documents. Lerma admits that on July 31 and August 1, 1995, he published the AT documents on the Internet through defendant Digital Gateway Systems ("DGS"), an Internet access provider. RTC, which regularly scans the Internet, discovered the publication of documents and on August 11, 1995, warned Lerma to return the AT documents and not publish them any further. After Lerma refused to cooperate, RTC obtained a Temporary Restraining Order prohibiting Lerma from any further publication of the documents and a seizure

warrant which authorized the United States Marshal to seize Lorma's personal computer, floppy disks and any copies of the copyrighted works of L. Ron Hubbard, the author of the AT documents

During the same time period, on or abut August 5 or 6, 1995, Lerma sent a hard copy of the Fishman affidavit and AT attachments to Richard Leiby, an investigative reporter for The Washington On August 12, 1995, counsel for RTC discovered this disclosure and approached The Post, which was told that the Fishman In response to the affidavit might be stolen. representations, The Post returned the actual copy which Lerma had given it. However, The Post had by then learned that a copy of the same Fishman affidavit was available in the open court file in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. On August 14, 1995, The Post sent Kathryn Wexler, a news aide stationed in California, to that court to obtain a copy of the Fishman affidavit. The Clerk's office made a copy for Wexler, who then mailed it to Washington. Although it is undisputed that RTC staff members had been checking that file out and holding it all day to prevent anyone from seeing it, the file was not sealed and obviously was available, upon request, to any member of the public who wished to see it.

The day after The Post obtained its copy of the Fishman affidavit, the RTC applied for a sealing order and the "rial judge ordered the file scaled. However, there is no evidence in the record that the judge ordered The Post to return the copy made by the Clerk's office or that any kind of a restraining order was

issued by that court against The Post.

Five days later, on August 19, 1995, The Post published a news article, entitled "Church in Cyberspace: Its Sacred Writ is on the Net. Its Lawyers are on the Case," written by defendant Marc Fisher. In that article, RTC's lawsuit against Lerma and the seizure of his computer equipment were discussed, as was the history of Scientology litigation against its critics and the growing use of the Internet by Scientology dissidents. The article included three brief quotes (totalling 46 words) from three of the AT documents. On August 22, 1995, the RTC filed its First Amended Verified Complaint for Injunctive Relief and Damages in which it added The Washington Post and its two reporters, Fisher and Leiby, as additional defendants. A Second Amended Verified was later filed and is now the subject of this summary judgment motion.

II. THE COPYRIGHT CLAIM

Although the Court has serious reservations about whether the AT documents at issue in this litigation are properly copyrighted, for the purposes of this motion, the Court assumes that the RTC holds properly registered, valid copyrights for the AT documents attached to the Fishman affidavit.

The Post does not deny that it copied the AT documents and quoted from them. It argues, however, that this copying and these quotations fall squarely within the "fair use" exception. Thus, the dispositive issue as to the copyright claim is whether or not The Post's use of the AT documents falls within the fair use exception to the copyright law. Under that exception, "the fair

use of a copyright ... for purposes such as criticism comment, news reporting ... or research, is not an infringement of copyright." 17 U.S.C.A. § 107 (West Supp. 1995) (emphasis added). As the Supreme Court has held "fair use is a mixed question of law and fact." Harper & Row Publishers Inc. v. Nation Enters, 471 U.S. 539, 560 (1985). In the instant case, the Court finds no material facts in dispute; therefore, the issue can be resolved as a matter of law.

At the outset of its opposition, the RTC argues that because the fair use doctrine is an equitable one. The Post should not be allowed to rely on this defense because of unclean hands. Specifically, the RTC points to The Post's failure to disclose that it had made several copies of the Fishman affidavi:. In an affidavit signed on September 26, 1995, Mary Ann Wernar, a Post Vice President and counsel, averred that "only one copy of that [Fishman] declaration has been made." In fact, through discovery RTC has learned, and The Post does not dispute, that other copies were made. Wexler admits that she made an additional copy of the materials received from the Clerk's office. She sent that copy to Washington as well to ensure that Washington got a copy. A second copy was created, not by copying the Fishman affidavit which had been obtained in California, but by down loading a copy off the Internet. The Post argues persuasively here that the presence of the AT documents on the Internet was part of their very news worthiness and that making this copy was an act of legitimate news gathering.

A third copy of the AT documents was generated after Lerma sent a duplicate of the Fishman affidavit to Leiby via e-mail. That e-mail was copied to a disk in response to a demand by RTC's counsel on August 12, 1995, that The Post secure any matterials it had been sent by Lerma. (Second Werner Decl. §§ 4-5).

None of these acts of copying strike this Court as constituting unethical behavior and the Court is satisfied from her second declaration that Ms. Werner did not mislead the Court or counsel in referring to one copy. In any case, the Court agrees with The Post that the issue of unclean hands is a weak attempt by RTC to avoid the real issue of fair use.

In determining whether the use of a copyrighted work is fair use and therefore not an infringement, the Court must consider four factors:

- 1. the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- 3. the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole;
- 4. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.

17 U.S.C.A. § 107 (West Supp. 1995). These four statutory factors may not "be treated in isolation, one from another. All are to be explored, and the results weighed together, in light of the

purposes of copyright." Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music Inc., 114 S. Ct. 1164, 1170-71 (1994). The interplay of the four factors is recognized elsewhere as well. See, e.g., Sony Corp. of America v. Universal Studios. Inc., 464 U.S. 417, 449-450 (1984) (reproduction of entire work "does not have its ordinary effect of militating against a finding of fair use" as to home videotaping of television programs); Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc. v. National Enterprises, 471 U.S. 539, 564 (1985) ("[E] ven substantial quotations might qualify as fair use in a review of a published work or a news account of a speech" but not in a scoop of a soon-to-be-published memoir). Thus, we may not evaluate any single fair use factor in isolation.

As to the first factor, the purpose and character of the use, there is no evidence in this record that The Post copied the AT documents for any purposes other than news gathering, news reporting and responding to litigation. Although the RTC has argued that The Post harbors some animus towards Scientology, an unbiased observer would conclude that the Church of Scientology and its treatment of critics is a newsworthy subject about which The Post is permitted to investigate and report. There is no evidence that The Post was trying to "scoop" the RTC in quoting the AT documents or trying to avoid payment of a royalty, conduct to which other courts have looked in finding that a media o ganization violated copyright. Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., v. Nation Enterprises, 471 U.S. 539 (1985); Lowa State University Foundation.

Inc., v. American Broadcasting Co., Inc., 463 F. Supp. 902

(S.D.N.Y. 1978).

Under the second factor, the scope of the fair use doctrine is greater with respect to factual works than creative or literary Hubbard's works are difficult to classify and courts works. dealing with this issue have differed in their conclusion. As the Second Circuit stated in New Fra Publications Int'l v. Carol Publishing Group, 904 F.2d 152, 158 (2d Cir.), cert, den:ed, 111 S. Ct. 297 (1990), "reasonable people can disagree over how to classify Hubbard's works." However, that court also concluded that the works "deal with Hubbard's life, his views on religion, human relations, the Church, etc. -- [and] are more properly viewed as factual or informational." Id. at 157. The United States District Court for the Southern District of California is of another view, however. In Bridge Publications, Inc. v. Vien, 827 f. Supp. 629, 636 (S.D. Cal. 1993), the court stated that "[t] he undisputed evidence shows that L. Ron Hubbard's works are the product of his creative thought process, and not merely informational "

However, in this litigation the RTC has characterized the AT documents essentially as training materials. Therefore, this Court concludes that despite their obtuse language the AT documents are intended to be informational rather than creative and, therefore, that a broader fair use approach is appropriate.

To evaluate the third factor, which essentially requires making a qualitative as well as quantitative analysis of the use made of the work, the three quotes need to be read in the context of the article. The first and longest quote is obviously included

merely as an example of the obtuse language used in the AT documents. No fair-minded reader could possibly construe this quote otherwise.

Most of the 103 pages of disputed texts from the Fishman file are instructions for leaders of the OT training sessions. They are written in the dense jargon of the church. 'If you do OT IV and he's still in his head, all is not lost, you have other actions you can take. Clusters, Prep-Checks, failed to exercise directions.'

The second quote describes how in "one high-level OT session trainees are asked to pick an object 'wrap an energy beam around it' and pull themselves toward the object." The last quote occurs in the very next sentence which describes how trainees are to "be in the following places—the room, the sky, the moon, the sun." These underlined words comprise the total of the copyrighted materials quoted.

The RTC argues that where quotes, although fragmentary, are of "significant material," even <u>de minimis</u> copying infringes. It then bootstrape this argument by claiming that because Fisher chose to include these three quotes in his article, the quoted language must necessarily be significant. Under this reasoning, no one, let alone a newspaper, could ever quote from copyrighted materials without fear of being hauled into court for infringement because any quote would be deemed significant. To accept this argument would essentially destroy the fair use doctrine. It also clearly is unsupported by the facts because as discussed above, the three quotes, read in context of the entire article, are offered solely as illustrations of the author's claims about Scientology. They

are not intended to offer a complete definition of the Scientology religion or to capture the total essence of what it means to be a Scientologist.

Lastly, we must look at the effect of The Post's use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work. Although the RTC claims it has demonstrated an enormous effect upon its potential market, a fair view of the record discloses no evidence of any economic exploitation by The Post of RTC's copyrighted material. As The Post cogently argues, no follower of Scientology could possibly be satisfied by these three random fragments quoted in its article so as to bypass the complete regime of indoctrination.

Although both sides have raised numerous additional issues, the essential analysis for the copyright claim comes down to these four factors. Based on this analysis, we find for the defendants. RTC properly argues that the mere existence of a copyrighted work in an open court file does not destroy the owner's property interests in that work. In the same way, the placement of a copyrighted book on a public library shelf does not permit unbridled reproduction by a potential infringer. However, RTC cannot selectively avail itself of only a segment of the copyright law. With the preservation of copyright protection invariably comes the fair use exception, and on that ground The Post's actions are proper.

III. ATTORNEY'S FEES

Because The Post has been found to be the prevailing party on

the copyright claim, it qualifies for an award of attorney's fees and litigation expenses. The RTC opposes such an award. Whether to award such fees is a matter left to the Court's discretion.

Fogerty v. Fantasy, Inc., --U.S.--, 114 S. Ct. 1023, 1033 (1994). In deciding the appropriateness of a fee award, the Court should consider the motivation of the plaintiff in bringing the action for copyright infringement and the extent to which plaintiff's position is reasonable and well-grounded in fact and law.

On the first issue, the Court finds that the mot vation of plaintiff in filing this lawsuit against The Post is reprehensible. Although the RTC brought the complaint under traditional secular concepts of copyright and trade secret law, it has become clear that a much broader motivation prevailed—the stifling of criticism and dissent of the religious practices of Scientology and the destruction of its opponents. L. Ron Hubbard, the Sounder of Scientology, has been quoted as looking upon the law as a tool to

[h] arass and discourage rather than to win. The law can be used very easily to harass and enough harassment on somebody who is simply on the thin edge anyway, well knowing that he is not authorized, will generally be sufficient to cause his professional decease. If possible, of course, ruin him utterly.

(Declaration of Mary Ann Werner, Attachment A, at C5; see also The Post's reply brief at p. 24, note 23).

The context and extent in which The Post copied and quoted from the AT documents was so de minimis that this Court finds that no reasonable copyright holder could have in good fait brought a copyright infringement action. Although there are limits beyond

which the media may not go, even in the interests of news gathering and reporting, this case does not come anywhere near those limits. Therefore, an award of reasonable attorneys' fees is appropriate and granted.

IV. MISAPPROPRIATION CLAIM

To prove misappropriation of a trade secret, the RTC must show (1) that it possessed a valid trade secret, (2) that the defendant acquired its trade secret, and (3) that the defendant knew or should have known that the trade secret was acquired by improper means. Trandes Corporation v. Guv F. Atkinson, 996 F.21 655, 660 (4th Cir. 1993), cert. denied, -- U.S. --, 114 S.Ct. 443 (1993).

The Post argues persuasively that the AT documents were no longer trade secrets by the time The Post acquired them. They point to the following undisputed facts. First, the Fishman affidavit had been in a public court file from April 14, 1993 until August 15, 1995, for a total of 28 months. Although RTC has shown that it went to extraordinary efforts to control access to that file by having church members sign out the file and toep it in their custody at the courthouse, the file nevertheless was an open file, available to the public. The Post was able to obtain a copy of the Fishman affidavit without any difficulty, by merely asking the Clerk of the court to copy it. Thus, having been in the public domain for an extensive period of time, these AT documents cannot be deemed "trade secrets." Kewanes Oil Co. v. Bicron Corp., 416 U.S. 470, 484 (1974).

Of even more significance is the undisputed fact that these

documents were posted on the Internet on July 31 and August 1, 1995. (Lerma Affidavit). On August 11, 1995, this Count entered a Temporary Restraining Order among other orders which directed Lerma to stop disseminating the AT documents. However, that was more than ten days after the documents were posted on the Internet, where they remained potentially available to the millions of Internet users around the world.

As other courts who have dealt with similar issues have observed, "posting works to the Internet makes them 'generally known'" at least to the relevant people interested in the news group. Religious Technology Center v. Netcom On-Line Communications Services. Inc., No. C. 95-20091 RMW (N.D. Cal.) Sl:p Opinion entered 9/22/95 at 30. Once a trade secret is posted on the Internet, it is effectively part of the public domain, impossible to retrieve. Although the person who originally posted a trade secret on the Internet may be liable for trade secret misappropriation, the party who merely down loads Internet information cannot be liable for misappropriation because there is no misconduct involved in interacting with the Internet.

Even if one were to assume that the AT documents are still trade secrets, under Virginia law, the tort of misappropriation of trade secrets is not committed by a person who uses or publishes a trade secret unless that person has used unlawful means, or breached some duty created by contract or implied by law resulting from some employment or similar relationship. Smith v. ShapeOn Toos Corp., 833 F.2d 578, 581 (5th Cir. 1988); Aerospace Am., Inc.

v. Abatement Tech., Inc., 738 F. Supp. 1061, 1071 (H.D. Mich. 1990).

It is the employment of improper means to procure the trade secret, rather than the mere copying or use, which is the basis of [liability] . . . Apart from breach of contract, abuse of confidence or impropriety in the means of procurement, trade secrets may be copied freely as devices or processes which are not secret.

Trances Corporation v. Guy F. Atkinson Company, 996 F.2d at 660, (quoting the Restatement (First of Torts)) (emphasis in original). The Trances court notes that abuse of confidence or impropriety in the means of procurement represented the "essential element" and the "core" of a misappropriation claim. Id.

The RTC claims that because The Post was on notice of the RTC's allegations that the AT documents were stolen and were both trade secrets and unpublished copyrighted works. The Post was under a legal obligation not to copy or use the documents. This Court knows of no law which required The Post to sit on its hands and do no further investigation into what was obviously becoming a newsworthy event and newsworthy documents. The RTC's allegations are still just allegations. The very court from which the Fishman affidavit was obtained still has under advisement the issue of whether the AT documents are trade secrets. Although The Post was on notice that the RTC made certain proprietary claims about these documents, there was nothing illegal or unethical about The Post going to the Clerk's office for a copy of the documents or downloading them from the Internet.

Because there is no evidence that The Post abused any

confidence, committed an impropriety, violated any court order or committed any other improper act in gathering information from the court file or down loading information from the Internet, there is no possible liability for The Post in its acquisition of the information. This is true regardless of the documents status as trade secrets. As for the disclosure of the information. The Post did nothing more than briefly quote from publicly available materials. These acts simply do not approach a trade secret misappropriation, and, therefore, summary judgment must be entered for the defendants.

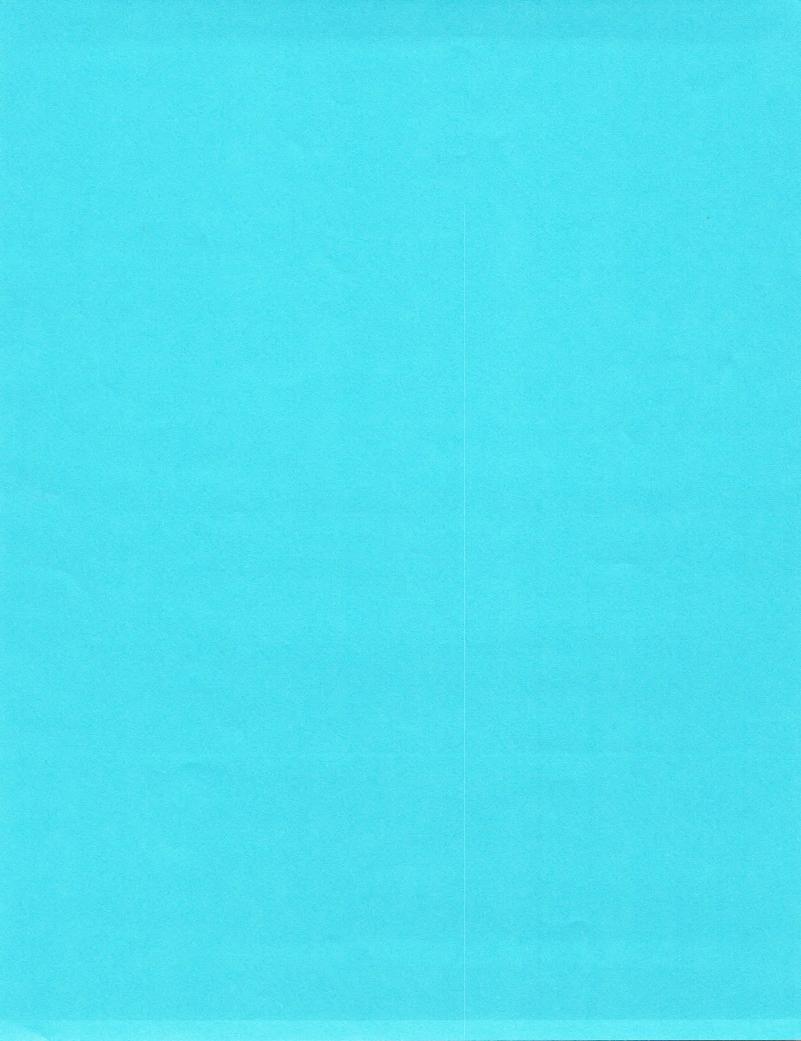
The Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Memorandum Opinion to counsel of record.

Entered this 28 day of November, 1995.

Leonie M. Brinkema

United States District Juige

Alexandria, Virginia



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   Attorneys for Creditor
8
   CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL
9
                     UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
10
                     NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
11
   In re
                                       ) CASE NO. 95-10911 aj
   GERALD ARMSTRONG,
                                        Chapter 7
13
         Debtor
                                       ) Adv. No. 95-1164
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                                       ) PLAINTIFF CHURCH OF
                                       ) SCIENTOLOGY
15
   CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
                                      ) INTERNATIONAL'S NOTICE
                                      ) OF MOTION AND MOTION TO
    INTERNATIONAL, a California non-
                                      ) STRIKE DEFENDANT GERALD
   profit religious corporation,
                                       ) ARMSTRONG'S AMENDED
17
                                       ) ANSWER
        Plaintiff,
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                                       ) [B.R. 7008; F.R.C.P.
                                       ) 8(b),(c),(e); B.R.
19
                                        7012(b); F.R.C.P.
   v.
                                       ) 12(f)]
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   GERALD ARMSTRONG,
                                       ) DATE: October 6, 1995
21
                                       ) TIME: 11:00 a.m.
                                       CTRM: Alan Jaroslavsky
22
         Defendant.
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         TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:
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        PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on October 6, 1995 at 11:00 a.m.,
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   creditor Church of Scientology International ("the Church") will
   and hereby does move, the above-entitled Court, located at 99
   South "E" Street, Santa Rosa, California, 95404-6524, for an
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order striking the amended answer filed by debtor Gerald Armstrong.

As grounds for this motion, the Church states that Armstrong's amended answer violates Bankruptcy Rules 7008 and 7012, and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 8(e) and 12(f), in that the amended answer consists of allegations which are immaterial, importinent and scandalous, but fails to set forth a short and plain statement of any defense.

This application is based this notice of motion, the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and any argument which may properly come before this court.

Dated: September 5, 1995 Respectfully submitted
WILSON, RYAN & CAMPILONGO

By:

Andrew H. Wilson

Laurie J. Bartilson BOWLES & MOXON

Attorneys for Plaintiff CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I declare that I am employed in the City and County of San Francisco, California.

I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 115 Sansome Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California.

I am readily familiar with Wilson, Ryan & Campilongo's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service.

On September 6, 1995, I served the attached PLAINTIFF CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT GERALD ARMSTRONG'S AMENDED ANSWER and CREDITOR AND PLAINTIFF CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL'S MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT GERALD ARMSTRONG'S AMENDED ANSWER on the following in said cause, by placing for deposit with the United States Postal Service on this day in the ordinary course of business, true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes. The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Office of the United States Trustee	Linda Sorenson, Esq. FELDMAN, WALDMAN & KLINE
250 Montgomery St., Ste. 1000	2700 Russ Building
San Francisco, CA 94104	235 Montgomery St.
	San Francisco, CA 94104-3160
Gerald Armstrong	
715 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.	Jeffrey G. Locke, Trustee
San Anselmo, CA 94960-1949	P.O. Box 488
	Kentfield, CA 94914-0488

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at San Francisco, California on September 6, 1995.

COLLEEN Y. PALMER

102-019 COOF.REG

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   Attorneys for Creditor
 8
   CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL
 9
                      UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
10
                     NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
11
    In re
                                         CASE NO. 95-10911 aj
12
    GERALD ARMSTRONG,
                                         Chapter 7
13
                                         Adv. No. 95-1164
         Debtor
14
                                         CREDITOR AND PLAINTIFF
    CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
                                         CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
15
                                         INTERNATIONAL'S
    INTERNATIONAL, a California non-
    profit religious corporation,
                                       ) MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
16
                                         AND AUTHORITIES IN
17
         Plaintiff,
                                         SUPPORT OF MOTION TO
                                         STRIKE DEFENDANT GERALD
                                         ARMSTRONG'S AMENDED
18
                                         WICHED
    YI
--
                                       ) [B.R. 7008; F.R.C.P.
    GERALD ARMSTRONG,
                                         8(b),(c),(e); B.R.
20
                                         7012(b); F.R.C.P.
         Defendant.
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                                         12(f)]
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TABLE OF CONTENTS TITLE PAGE I. INTRODUCTION . II. STATEMENT OF FACTS . III. ARGUMENT . . Armstrong's Answer Should Be Stricken Because It Consists Almost Entirely Of Allegations Which Are Impertinent, Immaterial, And Armstrong's Affirmative Defenses Must Be Stricken B. Because They Are Insufficient On Their Face IV. CONCLUSION . . . 1.4

U	
1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES
2	CASE PAGE
A	
3	Budget Dress Corp. v. International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, AFL-CIO
4	25 F.R.D. 506 (S.D.N.Y. 1959)
5	Ex Parte Tyler, 70 F.R.D. 456 (E.D.Mo. 1976)
7	Fantasy, Inc. v. Fogerty, 984 F.2d 1524 (9th Cir. 1993) 4, 5
8	Mahurin v. Moss, 313 F.Supp. 1263 (E.D. Mo. 1970)
9	
10	Sidney-Vinstein v. A.H. Robbins Co., 697 F.2d 880 (9th Cir. 1983)
11	<u>Stanfield v. Horn</u> , 704 F. Supp. 1486 (M.D. Tenn. 1988)
12	Talbot v. Robert Matthews Distributing Co.,
13	961 F.2d 654 (7th Cir. 1992) 6
14	
15	OTHER
16	11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)
17	11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(4)(A)
18	11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(5)
19	Rule 8(b)
20	Rule 12(f)
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
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28	
1	ii

I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Church of Scientology International ("the Church") filed a complaint to determine dischargeability and in objection to the discharge of defendant debtor Gerald Armstrong, after Armstrong filed a petition for bankruptcy with this Court in which he claimed to own no stock or interests in incorporated businesses. Armstrong, however, is the sole shareholder in a company which he incorporated in 1987, the Gerald Armstrong Corporation ("GAC") Armstrong claimed under oath in May, 1995, that the estimated value of GAC's assets was \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion [Ex. A, 545:19 - 549:18].

In response to the Church's straightforward complaint,
Armstrong has filed a 40-page answer, which consists of a lengthy
diatribe of scandalous, irrelevant, and ad hominum attacks on
plaintiff, plaintiff's religion, plaintiff's counsel, and the
deceased founder of the Scientology religion; argumentative
"specific denials" which ignore plaintiff's pleading while
repeating his scandalous accusations; and forty-five "affirmative
defenses," which consist solely of titles.

In short, the amended answer is not what is required by Rule 8(e): a responsive pleading which is "simple, concise, and direct." If permitted to stand, the amended answer would allow literally hundreds of highly prejudicial allegations, all of them irrelevant to this action, to stand as part of the pleadings, which are supposed to frame the issues of the litigation.

Armstrong's amended answer should be stricken, pursuant to Rule 12(f), and Armstrong admonished that he, like other litigants, is

required to follow the Bankruptcy Rules and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in this Court.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Debtor Armstrong filed his petition in bankruptcy on April 19, 1995. Thereafter, creditor Church of Scientology International filed a motion for relief from stay, in order to pursue to its conclusion a pending state court action for breach of contract. That motion was granted by this Court on May 25, 1995. In the state case, potentially dispositive motions for summary adjudication are pending, and scheduled to be heard on September 29, 1995.

On July 11, 1995, the Church filed an adversary petition with this Court, seeking a determination (1) that Armstrong's debts are not dischargeable pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(4)(A); (2) that Armstrong's debts are not dischargeable pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(5); and (3) that Armstrong's debt to the Church is not dischargeable pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2). The basis for the Church's complaint is simple and straightforward: Armstrong failed to disclose substantial assets in his petition for bankruptcy or, if the assets were dissipated prior to filing, has no adequate explanation for their dissipation, and Armstrong entered into the underlying agreement with the Church by fraud and deceit. [Complaint, paras. 21, 26-29, 31-37.]¹

The evidence supporting plaintiff's claims is also simple and straightforward: <u>inter alia</u>, Armstrong's testimony under oath concerning the ownership and value of the asset in question (interest in the Gerald Armstrong Corporation); Armstrong's contract with the Church [Exhibit A to the Complaint]; judicial orders enforcing the contract; and a videotape, made at the time

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On August 14, 1995, Armstrong filed an answer to the Complaint. This initial document consisted of a 20-page narrative titled "Introduction" and "History," a listing of the titles of 45 "Affirmative Defenses," and a single sentence "General Denial." On August 18, 1995, Armstrong amended his answer. The amended answer includes all of the material in the original answer, and adds a 17-page series of "Specific Denials," making it 40 pages in length.

The answer lacks connection both to the issues of the complaint. The "Introduction" and "History" consist of a rambling, disjointed narrative in which Armstrong purports to describe, in the most vituperative terms imaginable, his views, feelings, beliefs, and arguments about his former religion and its Founder; the plaintiff and its leaders; the plaintiffs' lawyers; and all of the judges who have in the past ruled against The material covers, roughly, Armstrong's allegations about his religious experiences in and with Scientology (from 1969 to 1982); his personal characterization of the Scientology religion; his viewpoint that the Church and each of its members is "evil" and "neo-satanic;" and his opinion that all of his actions are divinely inspired and constitutionally protected. material is responsive to any allegation contained in the complaint, nor is it material to any issue presented by this case.

Much of the text of the 17 pages of "Specific Denials" is

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that the contract was signed, in which Armstrong made the false representations.

repetition of the allegations contained in the narrative portions of the answer, coupled with denials or admissions of some parts of the allegations contained in the Complaint.

While burying the Court with extraneous and irrelevant allegations, Armstrong has simultaneously failed to make specific allegations which he is required to make. For example, contrary to B.R. Rule 7012(b), Armstrong refuses to admit or deny that this is a core proceeding. [Amended Answer, ¶ 2.] He has also listed by name 45 "affirmative defenses," but he has made no allegations concerning any of them, as required by F.R.Civ.P. 8(c).

III. ARGUMENT

Rule 12(f) provides that a court may strike "any insufficient defense or any redundant, immaterial, impertinent or scandalous matter." Rule 8(b) provides that a defendant "shall state in short and plain terms the party's defenses to each claim asserted, and shall admit or deny the averments upon which the adverse party relies." Rule 8(e) provides that, "[e]ach averment of a pleading shall be simple, concise and direct." These rules, and the cases interpreting them, provide the ample authority for the relief which the Church seeks.

A. Armstrong's Answer Should Be Stricken Because It Consists Almost Entirely Of Allegations Which Are Impertinent, Immaterial, And Scandalous

"The function of a 12(f) motion to strike is to avoid the expenditure of time and money that must arise from litigating spurious issues by dispensing with those issues prior to trial. . . . " Fantasy, Inc. v. Fogerty, 984 F.2d 1524, 1527 (9th

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Cir. 1993) guoting Sidney-Vinstein v. A.H. Robbins Co., 697 F.2d 880, 885 (9th Cir. 1983). In Fogerty, the Ninth Circuit delineated some of the types of material which is properly the subject of a motion to dismiss:

"Immaterial" matter is that which has no essential or important relationship to the claim for relief or the defenses being pleaded. "Impertinent" matter consists of statements that do not pertain, and are not necessary, to the issues in question. Superfluous historical allegations are a proper subject of a motion to strike.

697 F.2d at 1527 (citations omitted, emphasis supplied).

In Fogerty, the defendant to a copyright claim included lengthy historical allegations in his answer, and argued that he was trying to show a "pattern of abuse" to support his claim that the plaintiff had breached a music publishing agreement, justifying his own breaches. The district court ordered the allegations stricken, and the Ninth Circuit upheld the decision, noting that the district court had correctly found that the lengthy historical allegations, rather than providing "foundational facts" or "background," as claimed by the defendant, "created serious risks of prejudice to [plaintiff], delay and confusion of the issues." Id at 1528. The allegations, like those made here, "consisted of stale and barred charges that had already been extensively litigated, and would have been burdensome" for the plaintiff to respond to. Id. Further, the court noted, the stricken allegations would have "unnecessarily complicated the trial of the copyright claim. . . potentially adding weeks to the trial." Id. Each of these reasons supported the trial court's granting of plaintiff's motion to strike.

1 2 a: 3 m: 4 re 5 p: 6 6! 7 tl 8 s: 9 in 10 a: 11 be 12 C: 13 F 14 m:

Allegations are stricken even more readily by courts if they are "scandalous" in addition to being immaterial. "Allegations may be stricken as scandalous if the matter bears no possible relation to the controversy or may cause the objecting party prejudice." Talbot v. Robert Matthews Distributing Co., 961 F.2d 654, 664 (7th Cir. 1992) (Striking allegations in a labor action that the defendants had intentionally caused an outbreak of salmonella poisoning). Moreover, "Rule 8(e) demands conciseness in pleading. Courts will not permit a party to use his pleadings as a dumping ground for that evidence which he may not otherwise be able to present to the trier of the facts." Budget Dress Corp. v. International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, AFL-CIO 25 F.R.D. 506, 508 (S.D.N.Y. 1959) (Striking allegations in answer, made "with gruesome and evidentiary detail," of conspiracies between plaintiff and "racketeers").

Nor does a litigant's <u>pro se</u> status give him carte blanche to use the Court's files as a "dumping ground." In <u>Stanfield v. Horn</u>, 704 F. Supp. 1486 (M.D. Tenn. 1988), for example, a law student who failed the bar exam brought a civil rights action against various state officers <u>pro se</u>. When the magistrate issued a report recommending that the case be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, the plaintiff filed a 117-page objection to the magistrate's report which vigorously attacked the magistrate, claiming that he had "deliberately, willfully, intentionally and wrongfully distorted, misrepresented, falsified and misinterpreted" the facts of her case. <u>Id</u>. at 1486. Noting that, "[a] scandalous matter is that which improperly casts a

derogatory light on someone, most typically a party to the action" the court found that the plaintiff's pleadings were "indecent and violative of every rule of pleading and should not be permitted to pollute the records of the Court." Id. at 1487. The Objection was stricken in toto. Accord, Ex Parte Tyler, 70 F.R.D. 456 (E.D.Mo. 1976) (Pro se complaint containing "immaterial, impertinent or scandalous matter" stricken in toto.); Mahurin v. Moss, 313 F.Supp. 1263 (E.D. Mo. 1970) (Allegations in "incoherent, rambling and largely unintelligible" pro se complaint that certain defendants were gangsters controlled by the Mafia stricken under Rule 12(f)).

Here, Armstrong has presented an answer which consists almost entirely of allegations which are, rambling, disjointed, immaterial, impertinent and scandalous, by any definition. He begins his amended answer with a 4-page "introduction" and a 16-page :history" which do not address any of the issues presented in the complaint, and which do not set forth any concise statement of a defense. Rather, these pages comprise a lengthy and scandalous diatribe, viciously attacking the Church², the

For example, Armstrong falsely alleges that plaintiff Church, "has a reputation in its legal affairs for dirty tricks, threat, dishonesty, deception, attrition and overwhelm which is widely known and feared by this country's attorneys and by the media." Am. Answer at 3; that the Church, "also has a widely known reputation for using bullying and dishonest private investigators to harass perceived opponents pursuant to 'fair game' and for shielding their aggressive and corrupt activities behind the work product privilege of corrupt attorneys." Id.; and that the Church obtained its tax exempt status (which was the result of the most extensive IRS investigation of any church in the history of this country), by "illegal means." Id. at 20.

founder of the Scientology religion, its present ecclesiastical leaders, its religious philosophy, its attorneys, and even judges who have ruled against him, while simultaneously proclaiming that Armstrong is divinely inspired in his words and actions. These allegations are reiterated and repeated

Armstrong, for example, falsely alleges that Mr. Hubbard, who has been dead for nearly 10 years, was "paranoid," "schizophrenic," <u>Id</u>. at 1; a "pathological liar," "greedy," "lustful of power," and "vindictive," <u>Id</u>. at 1, 7; a bigamist, <u>id</u>., a drug addict, <u>id</u>. at 8, and a neo-satanist, <u>id</u> at 6.

Armstrong, for example, falsely accuses current Scientology religious leaders of "harassing" him, by "judicial enforcement of an illegal and evil contract," <u>Id</u>. at 3; "subjecting" him to a "campaign of covert and over character assassination," <u>Id</u>.; and "involvement" "in white collar crime, including securities scams and extortion." <u>Id</u>. at 20.

Armstrong falsely proclaims, for example, that Scientology, an established world religion with millions of adherents, is "neosatanic," id. at 3, 18, "anti-Christian," id. at 4, and a "religious fraud," id. at 19.

⁶ Armstrong refers to Scientology's counsel as "corrupt," <u>Id</u>. at 3, and falsely accuses that one of the attorneys representing the Church in this action, Laurie Bartilson, of executing false statements concerning him, because she is allegedly, "completely under the power of David Miscavige." <u>Id</u>. at 20.

For example, Armstrong falsely alleges that the Honorable Gary Thomas was "deceived," after "forum shopping" by the Church, into holding that Armstrong's contract with the Church was valid and enforceable, and that this ruling was "false," "obnoxious" and "evil." Id at 16.

⁸ Armstrong alleges, for example, that, "God in this litigation is pointing out gently that He is in charge," <u>Id.</u>, at 21; indeed, according to Armstrong, God is responsible for Armstrong's failure to include his ownership of the Gerald Armstrong Corporation on his petition for bankruptcy, <u>id</u> at 36. Armstrong alleges that God told him to give away all of his assets in 1990, <u>id</u>. at 27 -30, and claims that God gave him something he calls "the Unified Field," which he considers to be "mathematical proof of God's guidance." <u>Id</u>, at 34. He claims that all of his actions "are religiously motivated and completely protected by this country's and state's constitutions." <u>Id</u> .at 21.

throughout the "Specific Denials," rendering those "denials" an unintelligible diatribe against the "evils" that Armstrong perceives rather than a series of specific responses to allegations in the Complaint.

None of these allegations have any material bearing on the instant action. Most describe Armstrong's thoughts, reactions, ideas and viewpoints which he acquired in (variously) 1969, 1984, 1986, and 1990. They bear no relationship to whether or not Armstrong made a false declaration in connection with his bankruptcy in May, 1995, or whether Armstrong made false representations when he entered into a contract with the Church, rendering his present obligation to the Church nondischargeable. Those are the issues presented by the complaint in this court. Questions concerning the validity of the contract in question and the amount of Armstrong's obligation are being determined by the state court action, which Armstrong interrupted with his petition for bankruptcy, and concerning which the bankruptcy stay has been lifted. Like the "history" of "stale and barred charges" alleged in Fogerty, supra, Armstrong's religious history and bitter hatred for his former religion do not present legitimate questions to be determined in this (or any) Court, and Armstrong's expression of them is unequivocally prejudicial to plaintiff. Not only are these unsupported and insupportable allegations vicious in their scandalous attacks against plaintiff and anyone associated with plaintiff, but the presentation of evidence concerning these allegations would lengthen the trial in this action by many months.

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B. Armstrong's Affirmative Defenses Must Be Stricken Because They Are Insufficient On Their Face

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(f) also provides that
"the court may order stricken from any pleading any insufficient
defense. . . . " Affirmative defenses, like claims, "must meet
the pleading requirements of Fed.Civ.P. 8(a)." Flasza v. TNT
Holland Motor Express, Inc., 155 F.R.D. 612, 613 (N.D.Ill.1994).
Accordingly, "affirmative defenses must set forth a 'short and
plain statement' of the defense asserted. If an affirmative
defense is insufficient on its face, or comprises no more than
'bare bones conclusory allegations,' it must be stricken." Id. at
613-614 (emphasis supplied).

Here, Armstrong has listed 45 "affirmative defenses" by number and title (e.g., "SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Fraud and Deceit)."). He has not made "bare bones conclusory" allegations to support the defenses -- he has made no allegations to support the defenses. It is just as if plaintiff had filed a complaint stating "FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (For a Determination That Armstrong's Debts Are Not Dischargeable)" and nothing more after that. Needless to say, this gives plaintiff insufficient notice of what facts Armstrong is relying on to support his defensive claims. Indeed, many of the "defenses" are completely inapplicable in an action simply challenging the discharge of a bankruptcy. Such a complaint would be insufficient on its face,

For instance, Armstrong claims such defenses as, "This Court Cannot Enjoin the Practice of a Profession," "Unclean Hands," "Estoppel, "Fraud and Deceit," "Waiver," "Impossibility," "First Amendment -- Religion," "First Amendment -- Press," "Due Process," and a score of others, none of which are applicable to

and Armstrong's defenses are insufficient on their face.

Pursuant to Rule 12(f), supra, they, too, should be stricken.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Armstrong's answer must be stricken as "immaterial, impertinent and scandalous," pursuant to Rule 12(f). His affirmative defenses utterly fail to meet applicable pleading requirements and should also be stricken.

Dated: September 5, 1995

Respectfully submitted

WILSON, RYAN & CAMPILONGO

By:

Andrew H. Wilson

Laurie J. Bartilson BOWLES & MOXON

Attorneys for Plaintiff CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

plaintiff's claims.

1	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	IN AND FOR THE COUNT	Y OF LOS ANGELES
3	00	
4	GHIDGE OF GGTTNMOTOGY	_
5	CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY) INTERNATIONAL, a California) not-for-profit religious)	CERTIFIED
6	corporation,)	C. L.
7	Plaintiff,	
8	Vs.	Case No. BC 052395
9	GERALD ARMSTRONG; DOES) 1 through 25, inclusive,)	
10	Defendants.)	
11)	
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14		
15		
16	DDD047777	W 45
17	DEPOSITIO	
18	GERALD ARM	ISTRONG
19	VOLUME	. V
20	PAGES 525	- 624
21		
22	WEDNESDAY, MARC	CH 10, 1993
23		
24		
25	REPORTED BY: LYNN P. NYLUND,	. CSR NO. 3696

Mary Hillabrand, Inc. 520 Sutter Street San Francisco, CA 94102

1	answer any m	ore questions on the subject, so that's the
. 2	area. That'	s what I am entitled to and that is another
3	question.	
4		What was the value of the real property that
5	you gave awa	y in August of 1990?
6	A.	I don't know.
7	Q.	How much real property did you give away in
8	August of 1990?	
9	A.	I was on title on one property.
10	Q.	Where was that located?
11	A.	707 Fawn Drive.
12	Q.	To whom did you convey it?
13	Α.	Michael Walton.
14	Q.	Did you live at 707 Fawn Drive?
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	Did you continue to live there after you
17	conveyed the	title to him?
18	Α.	Off and on.
19	Q.	What was the value of the stocks that you
20	gave away in	August of 1990?
21	A.	A million.
22	Q.	To whom did you give the stocks?
23	A.	I decline to answer that.
24	Q.	Were the stocks stocks in public-traded
25	corporations	?

1	A.	No.
2	Q.	Private corporations?
3	A.	Yes.
4	Q.	What corporations?
5	Α.	It is The Gerald Armstrong Corporation.
6	Q-	How did you ascertain the value of those
7	stocks at or	ne million dollars?
8	A.	Through a logical assessment of the value of
9	the assets.	
10	Q.	Did you have any kind of independent
11	appraiser appraise the value of the stocks or the	
12	underlying assets?	
13	A.	No, as to that transaction.
14	Q.	Did you do that at some other point in time?
15	A.	I have had pieces of work evaluated.
16	Q.	Is this pieces of work that were property of
17	the Gerald A	armstrong Corporation?
18	A.	Correct.
19	Q.	When did you have those pieces of work
20	evaluated?	
21	A.	Some time in the past.
22	Q.	Before or after August of 1990?
23	A.	Before.
24	Q.	And the individual pieces of work that you
25	had evaluate	ed prior to August of 1990 were all still in

1	the custody	and assets of The Gerald Armstrong
2	Corporation :	in August of 1990?
3	A.	Well, not not some of them.
4	Q.	Does that mean that some were and some were
5	not?	
6	A.	Correct. Some were and some weren't.
7	Q.	Okay. Those works that were still in the
8	custody of Th	ne Gerald Armstrong Corporation August of
9	1990 that you	had evaluated, what was the appraised value
10	of those work	cs?
11	Α.	\$900,000.
12	Q.	Did you get a written appraisal?
13	A.	No.
14	Q.	Who performed the evaluation for you?
15	A.	I decline to say.
16	Q.	What was the nature of the work that you had
17	evaluated?	
18	A.	Artistic and literary.
19	Q.	Were you the author of the works?
20	A.	For the most part, yes.
21	Q.	What happened to the work that you had
22	evaluated that	at was not still property of the Armstrong
23	Corporation i	in August of 1990?
24	A.	I don't know what ultimately happened to it,
25	but I know th	hat it was stolen from the trunk of my car by

1	your organiz	ation and that it ended up in the hands of
2	David Miscav	rige, so you know where it is and I don't.
3	Q.	When did you have evaluated the work that
4	you allege w	as stolen from the trunk of your car?
5	A.	Sometime prior to its theft.
6	Q.	Do you remember the date?
7	A.	Not specifically.
8	Q.	Do you remember the year?
9	A.	1984.
10	Q.	Who evaluated it?
11	A.	I decline to say.
12	Q.	What do you claim the evaluator appraised
13	its monetary	value as?
14	Α.	\$50,000.
15	Q.	Did you receive a written appraisal or
16	evaluation f	rom the person who evaluated it?
17	Α.	No.
18	Q.	Was it someone other than yourself?
19	Α.	No.
20	Q.	So that's the value that you placed on it?
21	A.	Oh, I am sorry. Yes, it was.
22	Q.	Yes, it was. And you are changing your
23	previous ans	wer. Yes, it was someone other than you?
24	A.	Someone other than myself.
25	^ Q.	Whose name you won't tell me?

7	A.	ies.
2	Q.	Was it the same person who evaluated the
3	works at \$900,000?	
4	A.	No.
5	Q.	What year were the other works that you say
6	were evaluat	ed at \$900,000 evaluated?
7	A.	I think '89.
8	Q.	Are these still works works still the
9	property of	The Gerald Armstrong Corporation?
10	A.	Most of them.
11	Q.	What happened to the works that are not any
12	longer prope	rty of The Gerald Armstrong Corporation?
13	A.	The corporation gave them to me. I
14	that's other	than the ones which were taken.
15	Q.	So what is the value of the evaluated amount
16	attributed t	o the works that still remain the property of
17	The Gerald A	rmstrong Corporation?
18	A.	I think they are close to 1.5 billion.
19	Q.	And who's evaluated them at that amount?
20	A.	I did.
21	Q.	Did you have any independent appraiser
22	evaluate you	r amount?
23	A.	No.
24	Q.	So that's your estimate of their worth?
25	A.	Right.